

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are active in this application. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 22-23 are under consideration. Claims 4, 7, 9 and 11-21 stand withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to non-elected subject matter.

Applicant submit herewith the Figures that were discussed on December 8, 2003, with Examiner Rude and Supervisory Examiner Chowdhury, in the form of a Rule 132 Declaration.

The Declaration shows how the focal conic is restored in a liquid crystal cell according to the present invention. The initial focal conic state was influenced by external force by touching with an applicator. As a result, liquid crystal transitioned into the planar state. The focal conic state is then restored after obtaining homeotropic alignment using a 16V pulse voltage (mid-level).

Claims 1 and 22 of the present invention requires that the maximum space a (μm) between adjacent electrode regions and the thickness d (μm) of the liquid crystal layer satisfy a relational formula of $1.0 \cdot d < a < 4.0 \cdot d$. **Claim 2 and 23** of the present invention requires that the maximum space a (μm) between adjacent electrode regions, the thickness d (μm) of the liquid crystal layer, and the maximum effective voltage V_{max} (V) of a voltage applied to the front side electrode and the rear side electrode satisfy a relational formula of $1.0 \cdot d < a < d \cdot V_{\text{max}}/10$.

As described in the specification at page 17, starting at line 6, if the relational formulas of Claims 1, 2, 22 and 23 are not satisfied, a high voltage needs to be applied for a long time (for example 60V for 10 sec for $d=4\mu\text{m}$ and $a=30\mu\text{m}$) to restore the display. This is disadvantageous for CL-LCDs because the voltage is very high and it takes long to obtain the desired display. The Rule 132 Declaration shows that the focal conic state can be restored using 16 V after homeotropic alignment has been obtained using 30V.

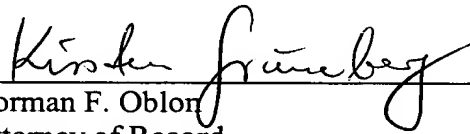
Thus, the attached Rule 132 Declaration demonstrates the superior results of the present invention.

Similar superior results are shown in Examples 1 and 2 which fulfill the above relational formula and Comparative Example 1 which does not satisfy the above relational formula (pages 21-31 of the specification).

This application presents allowable subject matter, and the Examiner is kindly requested to pass it to issue. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the claims or otherwise wish to discuss this case, he is kindly invited to contact Applicants' below-signed Representative, who would be happy to provide any assistance deemed necessary in speeding this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Norman F. Oblon", is written over a horizontal line.

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